EMPLOYEE TRAINING RECORD

TRAINING TITLE If Your Vehicle Hydroplanes

KEY TEACHING POINTS

- The highway shines from a recent downpour. As you drive through shallow puddles, your car sends up a fan of spray. You turn your steering wheel to get into a slower lane, but the vehicle doesn't respond. Your car is "hydroplaning." That means it is actually waterskiing on a tiny wave of water that has built up in front of your tires.
- SLOW DOWN
  - Resist the urge to brake or turn suddenly, as you may be tempted to do. The lack of friction between your tires and the road will throw your vehicle into a skid. Ease your foot off the gas until the car slows and you can feel the road again. If you need to brake, do it gently with light, pumping actions.
  - In wet conditions, even vehicles with new tires can hydroplane. Be careful. You can hydroplane for 20 to 30 feet without knowing it.
  - Proceed slowly. Unlike a patch of ice, which makes steering suddenly seem light and smooth, the water buildup in front of your wheels can create a false feel of the road. Only in trying to brake or in changing directions will you realize that your tires aren't on the pavement, but are riding on water.
- CHECK YOUR TIRE TREAD
  - Whether your vehicle is large or small, it communicates through four contact patches (or "footprints") where the tires rest on the road. When the contact is broken, your steering and braking capacity are diminished.
  - Your risk of hydroplaning depends on your tire's tread design and depth as well as your speed. Treads are designed to dry a tire's path. They can do it in two ways: by squeegeeing the water out of the way or by directing it through channels and groves to the rear and sides of the footprint. This gives the tire a dry spot to grip. But, the faster you drive on a wet road, the more water the treads have to disperse.
  - Worn treads have a greatly limited capacity to channel and hold water. This makes it easier for a wedge of water to build up in front of the tire. A badly worn tire can hydroplane at slow speeds. To be sure your treads stay deep and useful as long as possible, follow the manufacturer's directions for rotating the tires and keeping them properly inflated.
- IMPROVE YOUR ODDS
  - Your tires work hard to maintain their grip on the road surface, and rain makes the job that much harder. If your vehicle starts to hydroplane, you could have a serious accident. Learn to recognize the feel of hydroplaning. Know what to do if it happens, and when you have to drive in wet weather, do your best to avoid it.

TEST

QUESTION	ANSWERS	
	TRUE	FALSE
1 In wet conditions, even vehicles with new tires can hydroplane.		
2 Your risk of hydroplaning depends on your tire's tread design and depth as well as your speed.		
3 When contact is broken, your steering and braking capacity are diminished.		
4 Worn treads have a greatly limited capacity to channel and hold water.		
5 Resist the urge to brake or turn suddenly, as you may be tempted to do.		

EMPLOYEE'S NAME	EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE	DATE
INSTRUCTOR'S NAME	INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE

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